



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 10, 1998

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT

P 074 976 671

Phil Palmer
Diamond K Gypsum, Inc.
P.O. Box 35
Richfield, Utah 84701

Re: Review of Amendment to Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations.
Diamond K Gypsum, Inc., DKG Quarry, M/015/041 (UTU-69860), Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Palmer:

The Division has completed a review of the amendment to your Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations for the DKG Quarry located in Emery County, Utah. Information reviewed by the Division for this proposal included the "Amended Plan Of Operation" received August 31, 1998 and the "Notice Of Intention To Revise Mining Operations" received by fax on October 27, 1998. After reviewing the information, the Division has the following comments which will need to be addressed before tentative approval may be granted. The comments are listed below under the applicable Minerals Rule heading. Please format your response in a similar fashion.

The Division will suspend further review of the DKG Quarry mine NOI until your response to this letter is received. As agreed in our phone conversation of November 2, 1998, and as described in the Division November 4, 1998 letter, DKG will need to provide a timely response to these review comments within three weeks from your receipt of this letter. If you have any questions in this regard please contact me, Tony Gallegos, Lynn Kunzler, or Tom Munson of the Minerals Staff. If you wish to arrange a meeting to discuss this review, please contact us at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your cooperation in completing this permitting action.

Sincerely,

D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb

Attachment: Review

cc: Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM FO (UTU-69860)

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REVIEW OF AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF INTENTION TO COMMENCE LARGE MINING OPERATIONS

**Diamond K Gypsum, Inc. Company
DKG Quarry Mine**

**M/015/041
December 9, 1998**

R647-4-104 - Filing Requirements and Review Procedures

The Division has categorized the proposed changes to the existing Large Mine Operation Notice of Intention as an amendment. An amendment or revision to a large mine operation should be a stand alone document which addresses all the Minerals Rules for a Large Mine Operation. The information submitted for this amendment does not adequately address the Mineral Rules or contain sufficient information to be a stand alone permitting document. After this amendment receives final approval, the final version of the amendment will need to be added to the current large mine plan document. (AAG)

R647-4-105 - Maps, Drawings & Photographs

105.2 Surface facilities map

The maps included in the submission do not specifically identify the five acre increment area as described in the written section of the Operation Plan. The map/sketch submitted showing the surface facilities in Area C does not include a scale or a disturbed area boundary. Please provide a scaled map of the proposed surface disturbances in Area C with a disturbed area boundary. Please provide a separate map showing the mining sequence of five acre increments as described in the operation plan section of the submission. (AAG)

105.3 Drawings or Cross Sections (slopes, roads, pads, etc.)

Please provide a cross sectional drawing of the road crossing(s) for the South Salt Wash to Area C. (AAG)

R647-4-106 - Operation Plan

106.2 Type of operations conducted, mining method, processing etc.

Please provide a narrative description of the proposed mining methods and equipment to be used in Area C, or reference the appropriate section of the approved plan which provides this information. Describe the total acreage to be affected by this amendment, and break this acreage down for specific features such as topsoil, overburden, ore stockpiles, quarry area, roads, etc. (AAG)

106.3 Estimated acreages disturbed, reclaimed, annually.

The amendment describes the total surface disturbance in Area C as 30 acres. Please describe the sequence of disturbed acreage for the next five to ten years of operation and show the mining areas for this sequence on the map requested under section R647-4-105.2. (AAG)

106.5 Existing soil types, location, amount

Please provide an estimate of the depth and volume of soils to be salvaged from Area C for use

in final reclamation. Please provide an estimate of the salvageable soils associated with each phase of mining as described in the mining sequence. (LK)

106.6 Plan for protecting & redepositing soils

Please provide plans for protecting and redepositing salvaged soils. If the previously approved plan will be followed, please reference the appropriate sections. (LK)

106.7 Existing vegetation - species and amount

Please provide a description of the existing vegetation on the project area. Include in the description the percent of vegetation ground cover and the species present. If the vegetation community has been previously described in the approved plan, please reference the appropriate sections. (LK)

106.8 Depth to groundwater, extent of overburden, geology

Please provide an estimate of the depth and volume of overburden materials to be handled under this amendment. (AAG)

106.9 Location & size of ore, waste, tailings, ponds

Please provide an acreage estimate of the overburden and topsoil stockpile areas as shown on the requested surface facilities map. (AAG)

R647-4-107 - Operation Practices

107.2 Drainages to minimize damage

The proposed drainage crossing will use a combination of culverts and fill to access area "C." These culverts will need to be maintained during active operations until the drainage is restored during final reclamation. A statement describing the maintenance of the culverts needs to be included in the plan. (TM)

107.5 Suitable soils removed & stored

Please refer to comments under R647-4-106.5 and 106.6. (LK)

107.6 Concurrent reclamation

Please describe plans for any concurrent reclamation that will be conducted as a result of this amendment. Include plans for both final reclamation of previously mined areas that are no longer needed for ongoing operations as well as any plans for temporary stabilization (such as seeding topsoil piles). (LK)

R647-4-109 - Impact Assessment

109.1 Impacts to surface & groundwater systems

Please describe the impacts of the road crossing(s) on the South Salt Wash drainage and measures taken to mitigate these impacts. (AAG)

109.2 Impacts to threatened & endangered wildlife/habitat

If any threatened or endangered species (plant or animal) or their critical habitat exists on the project area, please provide plans for their protection. If no threatened or endangered species (or their critical habitats) exist, then please describe the circumstances and how this determination was made. (LK)

109.4 Slope stability, erosion control, air quality, safety

Please describe the possible erosional impacts in Area C as a result of this amendment. Please describe any actions proposed to mitigate these erosional impacts. (AAG)

R647-4-110 - Reclamation Plan

110.1 Concurrent & post mining land use

Please describe the current land use as well as the proposed post mining land use. If these uses are the same as for the current approved plan, please reference the appropriate sections of the existing plan. (LK)

110.2 Roads, highwalls, slopes, drainages, pits, etc., reclaimed

Please describe the proposed "final gentle north slope" in numeric terms (degrees or ratio of horizontal to vertical). Please describe the proposed reclamation treatments for the road crossing in the South Salt Wash drainage. (AAG)

Any natural channels which are disturbed must be reclaimed to restore the original flow patterns. Please describe how the road crossing for the South Salt Wash will be reclaimed or reference the section of the approved plan which provides this information. (TM)

110.3 Description of facilities to be left (post mining use)

The submission describes the mine road eventually being connected with the ridge road and becoming the permanent road toward the south. Please explain whether this road is being proposed to remain unreclaimed after mining operations cease, or if this road will remain during active mining operations only. Features which are proposed to remain after final reclamation must be described by a variance request. (AAG)

110.5 Revegetation planting program

Please provide plans for revegetating the affected areas due to this amendment. If the plans are the same as in the previous approved mining and reclamation plan, please reference the appropriate sections. (LK)

R647-4-111 - Reclamation Practices

The information submitted did not contain a detailed reclamation plan or description of reclamation practices. Please provide a description of the reclamation practices to be used in reclaiming the new area. If the reclamation practices to be used are the same as in the previously approved plan please reference the appropriate sections of that plan. (LK)

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R647-4-112 - Variance

The amendment submission included a section under heading VI which corresponds to the variance section of the Notice of Intent to Revise Mining Operations form. Information in this section of the submission did not request a variance from a specific rule, or provide justification for a variance. Please clarify whether a variance is requested. Please follow the guidelines listed under rule R647-4-112 when submitting variance requests. (AAG)

R647-4-113 - Surety

The amendment submission did not include a reclamation cost estimate. The Division cannot calculate an accurate reclamation estimate for this proposal until the information requested in this review has been provided. The Division is aware of DKG's reclamation of approximately eight acres of mining disturbance which has not yet been fully released. (AAG)

R647-4-116 - Public Notice & Appeals

An amendment to an existing large mine operation notice of intent does not require a public comment period under the Minerals Rules. (AAG)

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